

Conference Materials Online

Power Point Slides: The conference slide decks are online on the MontCAS site

<http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/> and are posted according to assessment and category.

Revised Conference JUMP: http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/NewsLetters/16JanJUMP_RevFeb.pdf

MontCAS Online Reporting

- The MontCAS Reporting system that is maintained by OPI and accessed on the MontCAS landing page is being updated. We will notify you once the updates are complete.
- The table of all Online Reporting links for MontCAS, including the MontCAS Reporting system referenced above, has been updated for the Smarter Testing Irregularities. Those need to be entered through the Measured Progress/TIDE portal but not entered on the MontCAS Reporting irregularities form. The previous table indicated reporting both places; however, TIDE is the only place where the Smarter irregularities should be entered.
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/General/OnlineReportingTable.pdf>



Alternate Assessments

Below is the link to a table, *Student Participation in MontCAS Alternate Assessment 2016*. It contains basic information about the alternate assessments for the CRT, Smarter Balanced and the ACT. The file is located in the General Interest portion of the MontCAS website.

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/General/16FebOPIQuickFactsAltAssessments.pdf>

Smarter Balanced

Grade 11:

- Optional for public high schools. ACT is the required assessment for public high schools; however, high schools that would like to administer Smarter Balanced in addition to the ACT, please contact Judy Snow no later than March 15.
- Required for private accredited high schools.

Webinars: MontCAS will resume webinars for the 2016 Smarter Balanced administration on the following Wednesdays at 3:30 pm with the sites opening at 3:10 pm. All webinars will be recorded.

- February 17: *Smarter Getting Started: Review of Steps* <http://app.keysurvey.com/f/1018008/3ee1>

- February 24: *Smarter Getting Started: Review of Steps Continued* <http://app.keysurvey.com/f/1017218/3b23/>

- March 2: Content TBD based on questions and recommendations from the February webinars

Details on Text-to-Speech and Read-Aloud Accommodations: The decision to provide an IEP or 504 student in grades 3-5 with text-to-speech or human read-aloud accommodations for the English Language Arts (ELA) reading assessment passages is a significant decision, one that has possible long-term implications for the child and should be made with extreme care. Please refer to the Quick Tips Text-to-Speech and Read-Aloud Decision on the Smarter Accessibility site for details.

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/QuickFactsTextSpeechReadAloudDecision.pdf>

Smarter documents are being added to the website as soon as they are prepared.

http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/Index.html?gpm=1_4

ACT

ACT-Approved Accommodations

- *March 14*: Suggested deadline for schools to print the Preliminary Roster of ACT-Approved Accommodations from the Test Accommodations and Administration (TAA) system.
- *March 25*: Deadline for schools to submit reconsideration requests of the Preliminary Roster in TAA.

Non-college reportable accommodations

- For IEP and 504 students for whom requests for ACT approved accommodations are not approved
- For IEP, 504, and ELL students for whom ACT approved accommodations are not available
- Guidance regarding these accommodations will be provided by OPI online; the accommodations will be similar to those for the CRT
- Window for ACT test coordinator to order non-college reportable accommodations materials online: March 28 through April 8

ACT Student Preparation Resources: All resources for test preparation, including the ACT Online Prep (AOP) administrator login and the order form for practice tests, can be found on the Montana state testing website at <http://www.act.org/aap/montana/act.html>

- All Montana accounts will expire August 31, 2016. If you get a message with an earlier date, please contact Angie Koehler.
- OPI has the usernames and passwords if the school used AOP last year, 2014-2015. However, if you are new users, please contact Angie Koehler to request AOP login credentials for the ACT Test Coordinator.
 - The ACT Test Coordinator can then create accounts for teachers who wish to use it in the classroom.
 - After students are assigned a username and emailed a password (auto-generated), the student signs in and is prompted to change the password so it is unique to them.

Test Administration Training Resources

The complete battery of test administration training modules will be posted on the Montana state testing website by Monday, February 15. The ACT conference slide presentation on ACT resources is online at http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/Conf/16Conf/16ConfACT_ResourcesTestPrep.pdf

Contact Information

MontCAS

Angie Koehler, Administrative Assistant
406-444-3511, akoehler2@mt.gov

Yvonne Field, Assessment Specialist, ELP and NSCS
406-444-0748, yfield@mt.gov

Pam Birkeland, Digital Library and Special Projects
406-560-2060, pbirkeland@mt.gov

Vicky Panasuk, Special Projects
vpanasuk@mt.gov

Paula Schultz, Smarter Accommodations
pschultz2@mt.gov

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director
406-444-3656, jsnow@mt.gov

Smarter and Measured Progress

- Mellicent Friddell, Measured Progress Montana Program Manager
603- 749-9102 x7024, friddell.mellicent@measuredprogress.org
- <https://mtsmarter.measuredprogress.org/portal/> is home for all online Smarter Balanced assessment administration information.
- MT Help Desk: 888-792-2741 montanahelpdesk@measuredprogress.org



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent